

NEW IRELAND, NEW GUINEA

What Is Bid?

Authorities, police and troops of (Australian) New Guinea are having increasing trouble with the "President Johnson cult." Last week a group of cultists routed a large government patrol, injuring a dozen policemen. The President Johnson cult was started in February by Bos Mailik and Oliver on small Hanover Island, and has spread rapidly. It is based on a single doctrine: that President Johnson shall come over and rule them. Cult

Abroad

members refuse to pay taxes because they are, they say, accumulating enough money to buy President Johnson.

PRAGUE

Pugwash Program

The latest Pugwash conference was held in September in the appropriate *ambiance* of Communist Czechoslovakia. Eighty-six scientists from the Western, Communist and Third worlds took part, with the U.S. delegation prominent, as always, in the discussions. Among the formal decisions: the NATO governments should "forthwith abandon" the plan for a multilateral nuclear force; all governments should agree not to give or accept nuclear weapons or fissile materials suitable for weapons; governments should prevent their nationals from helping other nations with nuclear weapons development; underground nuclear tests and production of fissile material suitable for weapons should be banned.

MOGADISHU

New Scramble

Though poor as a churchmouse, the young nation of Somalia, perched on Africa's Golden Horn, has had the thrill of being wooed by many rich and powerful suitors. West Germany, Italy (once sovereign over much of the country), the U.S., Red China and Russia all expressed their eagerness to help Somalia raise a big new army. Though some flirting still goes on, Russia has apparently won out. Several hundred Somali youths are now getting their military training in Russia; a large Russian military mission is at hand and massive supplies have already arrived. There are, in fact, signs that under the form of military assistance a new "scramble for Africa" is under way. West Germany is training a Nigerian air force. Israeli officers are working with several of the smaller countries. Ethiopia, though accepting Russian economic aid, has shied away from Communist military help. The U.S. and Sweden are in on her air force training; India, on the army's; Britain and Norway, on the tiny navy's. France of course keeps a considerable hand in most of her ex-colonies. In Egypt Russia is deep in military affairs, as in most of the rest of north Africa, Ghana and Guinea. The U.S. has been increasingly active in the Congo. In spite of powerful pressure from

Britain and the U.S., Tanganyikan President Nyerere has signed a military agreement with Peking.

LONDON

Tight Lips

The *Telegraph* reported last month: "Four tons of grenades, sticky bombs and gelignite, in an advanced state of decomposition, have been removed from a shed in the Essex garden of a former Home Guard captain and destroyed by a bomb disposal unit of the RAOC. The explosives were dumped there in accordance with a 'Most Secret' unit order at the end of the war, and for nearly 20 years the captain has felt bound by the Official Secrets Act to make no mention of their existence."



Waite London Daily Sketch

Ben Roth Agency

"Promise me before we start—no more colonies."

SEYCHELLES

Whose Ocean?

When Gambia becomes independent on Feb. 18, 1965, the process of liquidating the British Empire will have been completed, except for a few awkward appendices that will doubtless soon be cut out—Aden, Guiana, Southern Rhodesia and the High Commission enclaves within South Africa—and a sprinkling of islands mostly too small in population, even in the age of uhuru, to pretend to independence. But the world strategic problems once reflected in the imperial structure do not automatically disappear with decolonization. Thus, even as the last strategic bases on the shores of the Indian Ocean evaporate, the crucial need for an Indian Ocean outpost reasserts itself. It has now been officially acknowledged that London and Washington are jointly considering establishment of a major new base on one of the Seychelles or Mauritius islands. This report came at the same time that a U.S. nuclear task force, led by the carrier *Enterprise*, rounded the Cape to enter the Indian Ocean on a course that extended all the way to Australia. In the background is the proposal repeatedly put forward by one group of U.S. naval strategists to create an autonomous new fleet—comparable to the Sixth Fleet (Mediterranean) and Seventh (Asiatic-Pacific)—assigned to the Indian Ocean.

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